separation service providers as well as assembly/keyline service providers to establish an element "super set" that can, as needed, be treated as though it were a single element and which can, on other occasions, be treated as separate elements. This feature is seen as being particularly valuable to color separators and

5 rotogravure cylinder engravers in helping them to identify element combinations, within the system's archive that can be used in the execution of newly received documents.

In the case of cylinder engravers, this feature would enable engravers to identify previously executed cylinder engraving programs and/or cut cylinders that

10 can be used to eliminate work effort on newly received documents requiring their services. An interface feature that would aid in making this super set feature possible enables users to be able to view and work with documents on a layer by layer basis.

15 5.   Comparing like and similar documents and/or elements and eliminating redundancies.

One aspect which promotes system efficiency in archiving as well in the execution of work on archived documents and elements is the fact that there is only one of every unique document or element in the system's archive. Unlike other types of

20 digital asset management systems, Hence, the present system is not encumbered with redundant documents or elements.

In order to bring about this elimination of redundancies, the system is able search all of its document and element related records in order to identify like and similar documents and elements. It can either report its findings for users to

25 "control" the elimination of redundancies or to allow users to establish any combination of document and/or element properties and values as the necessary criteria for automated redundancy elimination.

Aside from system efficiency, which results from the elimination or document and element redundancy, The system's data model provides an extremely

30 efficient means for archive searching as well as for comparing and executing work on documents and elements.

6.   Establishing design and reproduction rules and reconciling documents and/or elements to established rules.

In this aspect of the system, users can in effect not only identify and correct pre-archived documents and their respective elements to maintain design continuity and compliance with reproduction specifications through out the archive, they can also establish a means to automate the preflighting process involved with documents provided by other participants in a number of possible graphic design and production workflows.

a.   Establishing design rules or standards.

The features necessary to establish design rules or standards are identical to the features identified in previously discussed section 4.

b.   Establishing reproduction rules or specifications.

So as to render the establishment of reproduction specification rules most useful, users will be able to establish sets of rules relative to a fairly broad number of different reproduction processes. In addition to being able to establish reproduction specification rules for the better known reproduction processes of lithographic, rotogravure and flexographic printing, users should have the ability to establish rules for less well known reproduction processes like silk screening, and embroidery as well as for Web publishing. Again, virtually any document or element properties as well as property values could be included in establishing reproduction specification rules.

c.   Reconciling documents and/or elements to established rules.

So as to render the establishment of reproduction specification rules most useful, users will be able to establish sets of rules relative to a fairly broad number of different reproduction processes. In addition to being able to establish reproduction specification rules for the better known reproduction processes of lithographic, rotogravure and flexographic printing, users should have the ability to establish rules for less well known reproduction processes like silk screening, and embroidery as well as for Web publishing. Again, virtually any document or

element properties as well as property values could be included in establishing reproduction specification rules.

The possible automatic reconciliation of documents provided by the system is something which users are likely to find foreign. They are likely to find it useful to use interface features that allow them to easily look at documents and elements both in the ways that they have been doing and in the new ways necessary to make full use of the system's more efficient document processing. Additionally, users will feel more comfortable and therefore more easily and quickly make the shifts in thinking necessary to make full use of system automatic features if they are able to reassure themselves that system automated features are working "correctly".

To address the above, the system interface for document and element reconciliation to design and reproduction rules as well as for preflighting provides users with the option to review the results of single or multiple document and/or element comparison to rules prior to reconciliation. Users will also be able to establish parameters for an automatic reconciliation to rules on an incremental basis, such that any combination of document and element properties and/or property values can be chosen for automatic reconciliation.

Features of the present system include:

1. Converts importing documents to the invention's base document file format as the first step of the invention's import process;

2. Parses the base document file format of importing documents in accordance with the invention's document object model;

3. Enables users to establish circumstances, characteristics and criteria associated with importing objects and/or object relationships so as to determine the nature of the invention's analysis and comparison of importing documents;

4. Enables users to establish information, derived from the invention's analysis and comparison of importing documents, that will be reported, distributed and archived in the invention's document object model archive;